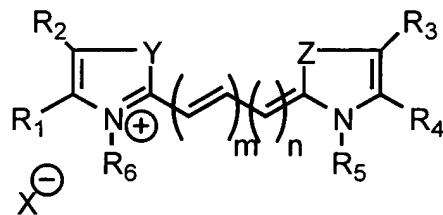


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-15 (Canceled)

Claim 16 (Currently Amended) A chiral detecting reagent comprising the structure (I):



(I)

~~wherein R₁ and R₂, and R₃ and R₄ taken together each independently comprise a substituted or unsubstituted cyclic or polycyclic aryl or heteroaromatic moiety; wherein m is 1, 2, or 3; wherein n is 0 or 1; wherein Z or Y each independently comprise CR₂, wherein each occurrence of the functional moiety R, is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and methyl; NR, wherein R is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and methyl; O; S; or Se; wherein X is a non-coordinating negative counter ion; and wherein R₅ or R₆ each independently comprise lower alkyl, a chiral reagent (CR) or a chiral reagent and linker (L-CR), whereby said chiral reagent is attached to the detecting agent via the linker, with the proviso that at least one of R₅ or R₆ is a chiral reagent (CR) or a chiral reagent and linker (L-CR).~~

wherein R₁ and R₂, and R₃ and R₄ taken together each independently comprise a substituted or unsubstituted cyclic or polycyclic aryl or heteroaromatic moiety;

m is 1, 2, or 3;

n is 0 or 1;

Z and Y independently comprise O, S, Se, CR₂ or NR; wherein each occurrence of the functional moiety R is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and methyl;

X is a non-coordinating negative counter ion; and

R₅ and R₆ independently comprise lower alkyl, a chiral reagent (CR) or a chiral reagent and linker (L-CR), whereby said chiral reagent is attached to the detecting agent via the linker, with the proviso that at least one of R₅ and R₆ is a chiral reagent (CR) or a chiral reagent and linker (L-CR).

Claim 17 (Currently Amended) The ~~compound~~ chiral detecting reagent of claim 16, wherein R₁ and R₂ and R₃ and R₄ taken together each comprise a benzene moiety, C₆H₆; wherein each of X and Y Z and Y are -C(CH₃)₂; wherein the linker moiety comprises -(CH)_p-(CO)-; wherein p is 1-5, and wherein the chiral reagent comprises a chiral acylating agent having the general structure: -(NH)-(CHR_x)-COOH, -N(R')-CH(R_x)-COOH, where R_x comprises a ~~chiral~~ an amino acid residue ~~side chain, and R'~~ is hydrogen, or R' and R_x taken together with the nitrogen and carbon atoms to which they are respectively attached form a 5-membered heterocycle.

Claims 18-21 (Canceled)

Claim 22 (New) The chiral detecting reagent of claim 16, wherein R₁ and R₂ and R₃ and R₄ taken together each comprise a benzene moiety, C₆H₆.

Claim 23 (New) The chiral detecting reagent of claim 16, wherein Z and Y are each -C(CH₃)₂.

Claim 24 (New) The chiral detecting reagent of claim 16, wherein X is BF₄, PF₆, ClO₄, TsO, I or Br.

Claim 25 (New) The chiral detecting reagent of claim 16, wherein one of R₅ and R₆ is methyl, and the other comprises a chiral reagent (CR) or a chiral reagent and linker (L-CR), whereby said chiral reagent is attached to the detecting agent via the linker.

Claim 26 (New) The chiral detecting reagent of claim 16, 17 or 25, wherein the linker moiety comprises -(CH)_p-(CO)-; wherein p is 1-5.

Claim 27 (New) The chiral detecting reagent of claim 16, wherein m and n are each 1.

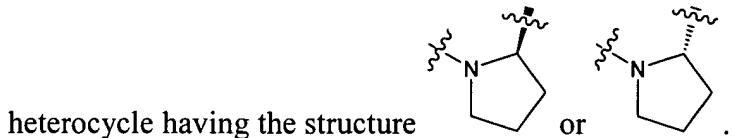
Claim 28 (New) The chiral detecting reagent of claim 16, wherein m is 2 and n is 1.

Claim 29 (New) The chiral detecting reagent of claim 16, wherein the chiral agent comprises a chiral acylating agent.

Claim 30 (New) The chiral detecting reagent of claim 29, wherein the chiral acylating agent has the general structure: $-N(R')-CH(R_x)-COOH$, where R_x comprises an amino acid side chain; and R' is hydrogen, or R' and R_x taken together the nitrogen and carbon atoms to which they are respectively attached form a 5-membered heterocycle.

Claim 31 (New) The chiral detecting reagent of claim 30, wherein R' is hydrogen and R_x is methyl, ethyl, *iso*-propyl, *iso*-butyl, *tert*-butyl, benzyl or cyclohexylmethyl.

Claim 32 (New) The chiral detecting reagent of claim 30, wherein R' and R_x taken together the nitrogen and carbon atoms to which they are respectively attached form a 5-membered



Claim 33 (New) The chiral detecting reagent of claim 16, wherein the chiral reagent (CR) or the chiral reagent and linker (L-CR) is attached at any one of R_1-R_6 , or as substitutions of other moieties thereof attached at R_1-R_6 .

Claim 34 (New) The chiral detecting reagent of claim 26, wherein p is 4.